

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 23583 01 OF 02 070946Z

15

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 L-02

/052 W

----- 022798

R 071316Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23583

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, UR

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

1. SUMMARY. AT HIS INVITATION, ON OCTOBER 4 I SPENT NEARLY AN HOUR WITH SOCIALIST SECRETARY-GENERAL FRANCOIS MITTERRAND AT HIS HOME. MITTERRAND THANKED THE USG FOR HAVING REMAINED NEUTRAL DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, CONFIRMED THAT HE IS PLANNING TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES, EXPRESSED A NEW PESSIMISM AS TO THE FUTURE OF EUROPE AND GENERALLY SEEMED MORE CONTEMPLATIVE THAN WHEN I LAST SAW HIM IN FEBRUARY. END SUMMARY

2. MITTERRAND'S PLANS FOR A VISIT TO THE US. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OPENED OUR CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT EVEN THOUGH I WAS NOW RETURNING TO PRIVATE LIFE, HE HOPED TO SEE ME IN NEW YORK WHEN HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES. I SAID I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME HIM TO NEW YORK AND LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING HIM. BEYOND CONFIRMING THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT THE US, HE GAVE NO SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF HIS TIMING.

3. SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST RELATIONS. IT MUST BE DIFFICULT, SAID MITTERRAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SEE THE RESURGENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES IN PORTUGAL, ITALY AND GREECE -- COUNTRIES WHERE, AFTER BEING OUTLAWED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 23583 01 OF 02 070946Z

FOR SO MANY YEARS, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COME INTO NEW

PROMINENCE -- BUT HE WAS AT SOME PAINS TO INSIST THAT THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE WAS DIFFERENT. WITH INCREASED SOCIALIST STRENGTH WITHIN THE UNITED LEFT, THE COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE TO CHANGE. IF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) REMAINS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ELEMENT OF SOVIET POWER, IT WILL BECOME NO MORE IMPORTANT IN FRANCE THAN IT IS IN GERMANY OR ENGLAND; IF IT CHANGES, IT WILL NO LONGER REPRESENT THE SAME AUTHORITARIANISM. MITTERRAND CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED A RAPID RISE IN SOCIALIST STRENGTH AFTER THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS AND SPOKE OF A PERIOD "WHEN WE TAKE OFFICE." I REMARKED THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS OPPOSED AUTHORITARIAN PARTIES EVEN WHEN THE EXIGENCIES OF NATIONAL INTEREST HAVE FORCED US TO COOPERATE WITH THEM. MITTERRAND ANSWERED THAT IT IS ONLY CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST LEFT WHICH BRINGS ABOUT CHANGE WITHIN COMMUNIST PARTIES. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE CASE OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH, OUTLAWED FOR 46 YEARS, IS NOW THE MOST STALINIST AND THE LEAST EVOLVED OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES.

4. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS WORKED WITH NUMEROUS SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS AGREED WITH THEIR IDEOLOGY, MITTERRAND RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE SO TERRIBLY DIFFICULT IN THE EVENT THAT A UNITED LEFT CAME TO POWER IN FRANCE: "THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE KREMLIN WHO PRAY EVERY MORNING THAT THE STATUS QUO IN EUROPE WILL BE MAINTAINED."

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 23583 02 OF 02 070953Z

15

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 L-02

/052 W

----- 022859

R 071316Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2962

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23583

5. EUROPE. MITTERRAND SAID HE WAS A "CONVINCED EUROPEANIST" WHO HAD ATTENDED THE EARLY CONFERENCES OF EUROPEAN UNITY IN 1948 IN THE HAGUE BUT WHO HAD BECOME PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT EUROPE CAN CREATE ITSELF. GERMANY IS TRYING TO SUBSTITUTE ITSELF FOR EUROPE AND, IN SEEKING A WAY TO REUNITE ITSELF, IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL THE EUROPEAN/US DIALOGUE. I ANSWERED THAT GERMANY POSSIBLY COULD MOVE IN THREE DIRECTIONS: FIRST, IT COULD CHOOSE TO INTEGRATE ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH EUROPE; SECOND, IT MIGHT NEGOTIATE WITH THE USSR; AND THIRD, IT MIGHT OPT FOR BILATERAL TIES WITH THE US. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT STRIVING TOWARDS A MORE INTEGRATED EUROPE WHICH WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE US WOULD BE THE BEST SOLUTION FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. THE UNITED STATES HAS WANTED FOR 25 YEARS AND STILL WANTS A UNITED EUROPE.

6. MITTERRAND SPOKE OF A CRISIS OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND SAID THAT THE CURRENT GENERATION LACKS THE VISION OF THE SPAAKS, SCHUMANS AND DEGASPERIS OF TWENTY YEARS AGO. LIKE DE GAULLE, THE CURRENT LEADERS LACK A VIEW OF THE FUTURE AND THAT COULD CAUSE THIS GENERATION TO MISS ITS RENDEZVOUS WITH EUROPE.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 23583 02 OF 02 070953Z

7. THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. MITTERRAND THANKED THE EMBASSY FOR NOT HAVING INTERVENED IN FRENCH INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY TAKING A POSITION DURING THE ELECTIONS AND COMPARED THIS US NEUTRALITY MOST FAVORABLY WITH THE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. HAD HE WON, MITTERRAND SAID HE FELT THAT WE COULD HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDLY COOPERATION.  
IRWIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PARIS23583  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740283-0621  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741067/aaaacfbs.tel  
**Line Count:** 162  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FAREWELL CALL ON FRANCOIS MITTERRAND  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, FR, UR, (MITTERRAND, FRANCOIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005